



Risks and political responses to climate change in Brazilian coastal cities

Author(s): Barbi F, Ferreira LD
Year: 2014
Journal: Journal of Risk Research. 17 (4): 485-503

Abstract:

Climate change is characterized as one of the most pressing issues in the twenty-first century. There are still many uncertainties related to the rapidity of these changes and how devastating they will be. It is recognized that climate change poses a major threat to important development issues such as water supply, food security, human health, natural resources and protection against natural hazards. Thus, modern society is challenged to manage growing risks and threats. In terms of responses to risks posed by climate change, it has been argued that governments are important actors that play a key role setting regulations, institutions and appropriate modes of governance in order to address these risks at different levels and scales. This article investigates whether climate change risks have promoted the construction of a climate agenda in some Brazilian coastal cities and analyses how climate change risks are being framed by local governments in terms of policy strategies and instruments in these cities. The analysed cities do not have specific climate strategies, but climate change risks have been addressed by local governments in their different sectors of activity. Our findings suggest that the responses to climate-related risks are blended with the responses to problems typically faced by local governments, such as floods, irregular land occupation, landslides on hillside areas, among others, which can be exacerbated by climate change. These responses are not in step with governmental actors' perceptions and concerns, particularly with regard to risks related to sea level rise. In this sense, multi-level and intersectoral responses are required.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13669877.2013.788548>

Resource Description

Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;
 surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker, Public

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise

Extreme Weather Event: Flooding, Landslides

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal, Urban

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Central/South America

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Resilience: 

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: 

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content